

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

JUNE 24, 2005

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on June 23, 2005, **PERNELL CORTEZ STARKS**, age 35, of Michigan City, Indiana, was found guilty by a jury in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, in East St. Louis, Illinois, for the felony offense of Endeavoring to Obstruct and Impede a Pending Investigative Proceeding before the United States Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General.

The possible penalties are not more than 5 years' imprisonment, and/or a fine of up to \$250,000 and not more than 3 years' supervised release. Sentencing is set for November 4, 2005, in United States District Court, East St. Louis, Illinois.

The offense occurred on May 19, 2004, at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI), Greenville, Illinois, where **STARKS** was then federally employed as a Recreational Specialist by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. **STARKS** was under administrative investigation by the U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General, and attempted to obstruct and impede the investigative proceedings.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General, and the Special Investigative Supervisors Office at FCI Greenville, Illinois. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard H. Lloyd.